

PATENT
Atty Docket No. 1271-014/MMM

Remarks

Claims 1-24 are in the application. Claims 1, 13, and 24 are in independent form. Claim 25 has been cancelled. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 17, 18, and 22-24 are objected to as being allowable claims that depend from rejected base claims.

Claims 1, 13, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for obviousness over Ross et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,263,212) in view of Astrom (U.S. Patent No. 5,579,372) and Richardson (U.S. Patent No. 5,329,520). Claims 2-5, 7, 10, 14-16 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for obviousness over Ross et al. in view of Astrom and Richardson, and further in view of Blonder (U.S. Patent No. 5,946,299). Applicants respond as follows.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 6 and intervening claim 5. Claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled. Independent claim 13 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 18 and intervening claim 15. Claims 15 and 18 have been cancelled. Allowable claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form and includes the subject matter of base claims 13 and 21. Claims 16 and 21 have been amended so that their dependencies are consistent with the amended independent claims.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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